

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 /068 W

----- 119090

R 191215Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBAQAY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5391

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 0916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LI, SF, ET

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS CAMEROON TO EXPLAIN
VORSTER VISIT

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2607 NOTAL

1. LIBERIAN FONMIN DENNIS ARRIVED YAOUNDE FEB 27 BEARING MESSAGE FOR
PRESIDENT AHIDJO FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT. DID NOT RPT NOT SEE AHIDJO

WHO WAS IN NORTH CAMEROON AT TIME. AHIDJO EXPRESSED PREFERENCE SEE
DENNIS IN YAOUNDE, WITH LATTER EITHER TO AWAIT HIM THERE FOR A FEW

DAYS OR GO ON TO EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES HE PLANNED VISIT AND RETURN
YAOUNDE ON WAY BACK. DENNIS OPTED TO RETURN. ACCOMPANIED BY BOTH
LIBERIAN DEPUTY FONMIN WITH WHOM HE TRAVELING AND LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR
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TO CAMEROON, DENNIS MET WITH AHIDJO FOR OVER ONE-HOUR TALK MARCH 6.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE MEETING, WITHOUT REVEALING CONTENT OF DISCUSSION. WITH NO VISIBLE CONNECTION, GURC FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED STATEMENT MARCH 7 INDIGNANTLY CONDEMNING SITHOLE ARREST IN RHODESIA; BUT STATEMENT ACTUALLY CONCENTRATED ON FIERCE CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMIN VORSTER, HIS FALSE CONCESSIONS, MANEUVERS, ETC. NO SPECIFIC MENTION WAS MADE OF VORSTER'S MEETING WITH TOLBERT.

3. LIBERIAN AMB JOHNSON HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT HIS FONMIN CAME TO EXPLAIN LIBERIA'S POLICY OF DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. (JOHNSON MENTIONED NOTHING ABOUT MEDIATING ERITREAN DISPUTE - REFTEL). DESCRIBED FONMIN AS SURPRISED BY WARM AND GRACIOUS RECEPTION ACCORDED HIM HERE, IN CONTRAST TO HAVING BEEN GREETED "MORE HOTLY" IN SEVERAL EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES JUST VISITED. JOHNSON ALSO INTERPRETED GURC'S MARCH 7 STATEMENT AS VERY MODERATE, THOUGH OTHERS SAW IT AS MILITANT, AND SAID HE HAD BEEN PLEASED AND RELIEVED THAT IT DID NOT DIRECTLY CRITICIZE LIBERIA'S DIALOGUE EFFORT.

4. COMMENT. FROM JOHNSON'S COMMENTS, IT APPEARS THAT AHIDJO SHOWED SOME COMPREHENSION OF LIBERIA'S INITIATIVE, OR AT LEAST WAS WILLING TO LISTEN CALMLY TO EXPLANATIONS. THAT WOULD BE TYPICAL OF AHIDJO STYLE AND MANNER AND DOES NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY MEAN HE FAVORS THE PARTICULAR APPROACH. JOHNSON'S "RELIEF" LIBERIA

SPARED FROM ATTACK IS ENSUING GURC OFFICIAL STATEMENT IMPLIES HOWEVER,

THAT LIBERIANS LEFT MEETING WITH OVERALL IMPRESSION THAT AHIDJO

NEGATIVE TOWARDS THEIR DIALOGUE INITIATIVE.
MOORE

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